

Five for the Future

Building a Sponsored Contributor Team

Sponsored contribution

Matt Mullenweg launched [Five for the Future](#) in 2014 as a call to action for organizations who have benefitted from WordPress (either the CMS or the community) to contribute five percent of their resources to the continued success of the WordPress project. Though encouraged, the five percent is aspirational, and such contributions range from core development to community stewardship.

This paper explores the building and maintenance of a sponsored contributor team.

What Constitutes a Sponsored Team?

Any person employed by an entity to work exclusively on the WordPress open source project is considered a sponsored contributor. Organizations may have sixty sponsored contributors working on dedicated projects, such as Automattic, while others will have one contributor focused on core development.

When the number of contributors your organization sponsors grows large enough to be considered a team (generally around 3 or 4), it makes sense to think about how they can coordinate their efforts with the broader WordPress project plans and goals.

Benefits to your Organization

Teams of sponsored contributors can be a hard sell for larger organizations. It's hard to follow the open source methodology of contributing without the expectation of reciprocity while also being held accountable by your parent organization.

While open source benefits don't match a corporate understanding of benefits, sponsored contributor teams regularly align initiative priorities with leaders and leading voices in the WordPress project, providing insight into the project's direction. These teams are at the forefront of emergent trends in the ecosystem.

Building a Contributor Team

01 Whether your team is newly recruited or an internal team with a new mandate, discuss the benefits of joining the Five for the Future pledge with your team lead.

02 If you would like additional information or would like to schedule an exploratory call with the Executive Director of WordPress, Josepha Haden Chomphosy, please contact her Chief of Staff, Chloé Bringmann (@cbringmann).

Topics that Josepha can review are as follows:

- The WordPress roadmap
- Roles and responsibilities within the project
- Decision making best practices
- Questions and expectations

03 [Make your pledge](#) to the future of WordPress.